

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-4 are amended and claim 1 is canceled. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance as all claims are indicated allowable; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because all claims are allowable; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claims 2-7 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-4 are rewritten in independent form by incorporating canceled independent claim 1. Thus, claims 2-4 are in condition for allowance.

The title of the specification is objected to as being non-descriptive. Applicant respectfully submits that the revised title is descriptive of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,700,618 (Chubachi). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 is canceled to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:
Notice of Appeal
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 23, 2008

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